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 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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eastern Sinkiang until the arrival of the Chinese Communist forces. If this occurs, the Central Government troops, having turned Communist, might resist the Ili forces** [REDACTED]

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4. On 17 September 1949, Aisabek and others were rushing to get out of Tihua before the arrival of Ili troops.*** They planned to go to Pakistan if they could get visas. Aisabek's close followers were to go with him, and the rest hoped to lose themselves among the Turki population.

5. Yolbars was in Hami on 17 September 1949. There was no information about his men. Janimkhan and other Kazakhs were apparently planning to move southward slowly, perhaps to the mountains south of the Takla Makan Desert. No movement had yet started.

7. American prestige in Tihua was very low because of America's not having furnished military aid to the troops fighting the Communists in Kansu and Tsinghai, and because of the closure of the American consulate in Tihua. There was a widespread belief in Tihua that the American consulate had been closed at the request of the Soviet authorities.

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- * [REDACTED] Comment. [REDACTED] reported that MA Ch'eng-hsiang and some of his troops left Tihua on 18 September, but returned on 21 September. Other plans for withdrawal from Sinkiang Province were reported, substantially as above, [REDACTED]

- ** [REDACTED] Comment. Probably the Ili troops will invade across the Manasa River when the Chinese Communists reach Ansi (96-00, 40-50), whether or not the evacuation of Central Government troops has been completed. In this case there would probably be no resistance from the Central Government troops. There is no indication that the Central Government will try to hold southern Sinkiang Province.

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- *** [REDACTED] Comment. [REDACTED] reported that Aisabek left Tihua on 19 September.

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